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P11, Bill 15

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May 30, 2016

Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
530 S King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Honolulu City Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Capital Improvement Budget Bill 15, CD2 and Proposed FD1 (Ozawa)

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Jeannine Johnson. I am the Secretary to the Niu Valley Community Association and have been the Secretary to the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center since 2007. Through the ongoing encouragement of the community, our organization succeeded in gaining access rights to mālama Kānewai Spring in Kuli'ou'ou in 2010, designated one of the top endangered sites in Hawai'i in 2015. This stewardship paved the way for the landowner to agree to sell this wahi pana to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and us so that Kānewai Spring would be protected in perpetuity.

It has come to my attention that seven neighbors on Kānewai Fishpond have written a letter to Council Budget Chair Ann Kobayashi opposing our acquisition of Kānewai Spring and stating several misrepresentations. As Secretary, I can verify that as far back as November, 2008, one of our Board members, former Judge Walter Heen, contacted Dr. Richard Mamiya on the possibility of working with the Kānewai Pond Homeowners Association. In the Spring of 2012, James and Michelle Trans came by one our workdays and were given a tour of the Spring. And on April 3, 2013, Dennis Yeomans, was invited to and attended our monthly Board meeting for the purpose of collaborating with the neighboring homeowners. At that time, Mr. Yeomans said that it was amazing what we'd done with the property, that we'd increased the value of the property and he was interested in possibly purchasing the property. Our organization has always been open to meeting with the neighbors, have reached out and indeed met with some of them and been honest about our intention to preserve Kānewai Spring. I am extremely puzzled as to how Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center would purportedly purchase Kānewai Fishpond as stated in their letter, when each homeowner has a 1/10th interest in the Fishpond and they clearly would not have sold their interests if we had asked (and we didn't).

In addition, I suspect that Councilmember Trevor Ozawa and these neighbors are unaware of my work as Committee Chair of the Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2 Legislative Sub-Committee. Neighborhood Board #2 represents over 6,000

households, with a population of almost 20,000 people (State of Hawaii Data Book 2002) in East Honolulu. I have submitted testimony on behalf of Neighborhood Board #2 seven times from 2008 to 2012 specifically against illegal bed and breakfasts (B&Bs) and transient vacation units (TVUs). Neighborhood Board #2's strong opposition to B&Bs and TVUs occurred after I filed a complaint on behalf of the Niu Valley Community Association with the Department of Planning and Permitting against supermodel Kathy Ireland's TVU in Niu Valley. Ms. Ireland's Ocean Front Oasis TVU held numerous illegal weddings and events from 2010 to 2013, in violation of County laws against commercial activities in a residential community. Therefore, any allegation that our organization would conduct illegal weddings or vacation rentals is categorically baseless.

I am a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools as is Councilmember Ozawa. The legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi is to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources and cultivate land-based cultural education programs through the expertise and commitment of numerous community collaborators. It was a lesson I took to heart and Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center has done this with numerous area groups (Boy Scouts, YMCA, Polynesian Voyaging Society, KUA, Hui Nalu, etc.), students from pre-school to college (Kamehameha Middle and High, 'Iolani, Waldorf, Kaiser, Maryknoll, Hui Malama o Ke Kai, Niu Valley Middle, KCC), as well as hundreds of volunteers (Marines, Hōkūle'a, churches, NOAA, Reeves' 'ohana and other nearby neighbors). And so I am again exceedingly puzzled as to why Councilmember Ozawa would choose to delete the funding for the protection and preservation of the last large open spring that freely flows to the ocean in Honolulu. I think he mistakenly believes that the monies for the purchase of Kānewai Spring can be used to purchase Ka Lapa O Maua (Paikō Ridge). However, TPL & the Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (Hui) of which I am a member purposefully let the Paikō Ridge funding lapse in June, 2015, as there was no nonprofit or government entity willing to own the land due to rockfall liability. In fact, TPL and the Hui are not involved at all in Paiko Ridge this year, so putting funds into the City budget for Paikō Ridge doesn't make sense and should be deleted.

Mahalo for your support for Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center so that as kia'i loko, we can continue our mission to properly preserve the fishponds of Maunalua.

ʻO au iho nō me ka ha'aha'a a me ka mahalo nui,


Jeannine Johnson